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service act of April 10, 1908, was extended so as to apply to all school districts of the state, after its adoption therein by the vote of the qualified electors. The court attendants in all counties which had previously adopted this act were placed in the competitive list. County examinations are to be held annually to ascertain the qualifications of candidates for positions on the district boards of registry and election. No persons are admitted to examination except such as are recommended to the state civil service commission by reputable members of either party, familiar with the locality. A certified list of successful candidates is furnished by the state civil service commission to the county election boards.

New York. The civil service laws of New York were not materially changed. The state Superintendent of Highways, an office newly created, is authorized to remove division and resident engineers, clerks, officers and employees of the commission except the secretary, subject to the provisions of the civil service laws. A slight territorial readjustment was made to accommodate appointees to positions in the state service the duties of which are confined to a locality outside of Albany county. (Laws, 1911, pp. 1483, 1230.)

Tennessee. The amendatory act of the state of Tennessee is wholly negligible, it clarifies the law but does not extend its application. (Laws, 1911, p. 1184.)

Wisconsin. The civil service laws of Wisconsin were amended in several particulars. Legislative employees who have held positions by appointment under the civil service rules and who have been separated from the service without delinquency or misconduct but owing to reasons of economy or otherwise, may be reinstated within two years. All rules governing examinations held to test the qualifications of applicants for civil service positions in cities were made subject to the approval of the mayor; the character of examinations is more clearly defined; subordinate municipal appointees may not be discharged by their superiors for political or religious affiliations; officers and clerks entrusted with the handling of money are exempted from competition and examination, and positions involving fiduciary responsibility are surrounded with more adequate safeguards; and the certification of an eligible list is more clearly prescribed. (Laws, 1911, pp. 522, 669.)

CHARLES KETTLEBOROUGH.

Legislative Investigations. One of the most hopeful signs in the legislation of recent years is the recognition by legislators that their

ability to legislate equitably depends upon thorough investigation and knowledge of the subjects to be legislated upon, and their willingness to gather all available information through special committees of their number or special commissions working through the recess of the legislature.

Each year sees an increase of this kind of investigations. A review of the commissions reporting in 1912 and 1913 to the different legislatures will indicate their scope and importance. Three states have commissions on a reform of their building laws, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Ohio. The last had a partial report at the session of 1911, which was adopted. Delaware is investigating child labor, Ohio is revising her laws relating to children and Connecticut is investigating the care of dependent and wayward children.

Cold storage and foods are receiving attention in Massachusetts and New York. The former has the single subject of cold storage, while the latter is investigating the price, purity, production, distribution and consumption.

Prisons and related topics occupy several commissions. Pennsylvania is investigating the method of inflicting capital punishment and the feasibility of one central prison for the death penalty. Convict camps in Georgia were investigated by a special sub-committee; the utilization of convict products is to be reported on in Massachusetts; and penal farms for workhouses in Indiana.

A Pennsylvania commission is revising the anthracite coal mining laws and another is looking into the causes and prevention of industrial accidents. Ohio has a commission on occupational diseases; Connecticut on state insurance for workmen; Delaware, Iowa, Michigan, Massachusetts, Nebraska and West Virginia on employers' liability and workmen's compensation; New Jersey has a permanent commission to report on the workings of their workmen's compensation law and also on old age pensions and insurance.

Taxation, as usual, has its quota of investigations. Pennsylvania has a commission on corporations and revenue; Michigan and Oregon on the general system; Massachusetts on the taxation of foreign corporations, to be made by the tax commissioner; Connecticut on taxation of forest lands and another on taxation of railways and street railways.

Railway subjects of investigation are: Transportation system of Boston, Commutation tickets and practices, Street railways—equip-

ment with fenders, all to be made by the Massachusetts Railroad Commission. Railway taxation is to be investigated in Connecticut.

Election laws have two investigators. The Pennsylvania commission of 1911 was continued until 1913 and Oregon authorized an investigation of election and registration laws.

Education is prolific in subjects for investigation. Massachusetts reports on local and state share of cost, industrial education in textiles, high school education, part time schools, teachers' pensions and state supervision of schools, all to be made by the state board of education; Indiana has a commission on industrial and agricultural education; Wisconsin on text-book prices and conditions; and Delaware on higher education of women.

Women's work and wages caused several investigations, one of the most important because the first of its kind in this country being on wages of women and children and the advisability of establishing minimum wage boards in Massachusetts; Connecticut reports on conditions of labor of women and children in state institutions.

Other investigations under way by special commissions are: public utilities, county and township organization, drainage, road and bridge laws, fire insurance and old age insurance, and rivers, lakes and harbors, all to be reported on in Illinois; segregation, care and treatment of defectives, feeble-minded and epileptics, in Pennsylvania; recording titles to property, in Pennsylvania; infantile paralysis, in Massachusetts; finances of cities and towns in Massachusetts, by the director of the bureau of statistics; metropolitan plan of Boston; rural life conditions, in Nebraska; state engineering expense and organization, Massachusetts; water storage and conservation, New York; city and county government of Albany, New York; chestnut tree blight, Pennsylvania; banking and insurance laws codification, Georgia; manufacturing conditions in cities of first and second classes to promote safety; fire insurance rates and classification, Wisconsin; local government—uniform methods, Georgia; and port conditions and pier extensions, New York, New Jersey and United States government jointly.

JOHN A. LAPP.

Reports of Occupational Diseases and Accidents. In 1911, for the first time in America, six states enacted laws requiring physicians to report cases of occupational diseases. These states are California, Connecticut, Illinois, Michigan, New York and Wisconsin. These laws have many points in common, and most commonly the diseases